

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P: RONEILL:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P: GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH (INFO)

NEA/EGY - MR. MATTHEWS (INFO)

NEA/ARN - MR. DAY (INDO)

----- 073279

R 142253Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

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AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 14, 1975:

GOOD AFTERNOON. ON MONDAY I WAS ASKED ABOUT A NEWS REPORT THAT NAVY SEALS WERE BEING TRAINED FOR ASSIGNMENT TO U.S. EMBASSIES, AND AT THAT TIME I STATED THAT NO ONE IN THIS BUILDING KNEW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT REQUEST. I WANT TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION, AND PERHAPS I WILL JUST READ IT INTO THE RECORD, A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ON AUGUST 12. THAT STATEMENT SAID: QUOTE THE U.S. NAVY DOES NOT HAVE ANY SPECIAL WARFARE TRAINED PERSONNEL, SEALS, ASSIGNED TO U.S. EMBASSIES OVERSEAS. THERE ARE NO PLANS TO ASSIGN SEAL PERSONNEL TO EMBASSIES. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS NOT TRAINING ANY PERSONNEL FOR SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT. UNQUOTE

ANY QUESTIONS?

Q. ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE THIS MORNING, ONLY THE

THREE-MAN DRAFTING TEAM CAME IN TODAY. DOES THIS MEAN THAT THE FINANCIAL TALKS HAVE ENDED?

A. NO, IT DOES NOT. THOSE TALKS WENT ON THIS MORNING AS WELL, ENDRE. THEY MET THIS MORNING. THE ISRAELI DELEGATION IS GOING TO HOST A LUNCH. AND IF NECESSARY THEY WILL CONTINUE ON THIS AFTERNOON.

Q. HOW LONG ARE THEY EXPECTED TO LAST?

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A. THEY HOPE TO WIND UP TODAY, I BELIEVE. AS WE HAVE BEEN SUGGESTING, THESE TALKS WERE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE ECONOMIC DATA PRESENTED BY ISRAEL IN SUPPORT OF ITS ASSISTANCE REQUEST.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THE POLITICAL TALKS?

A. ACTING SECRETARY SISCO AND AMBASSADOR DINITZ ARE PRESENTLY MEETING IN MR. SISCO'S OFFICE.

Q. WITH THE OTHERS?

A. YES.

Q. AND WILL THESE TALKS GO ON TILL --

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. IS SISCO GOING TO COLORADO WITH THE SECRETARY?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THE STORY FROM AL-AHRAM SAYING THAT MR. KISSINGER WILL BE IN CAIRO NEXT WEEK?

A. MY ANSWER TO THAT IS, AS THE SECRETARY HAS SAID, AT THE POINT HE IS IN A POSITION TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON THAT, HE WILL. I JUST HAVE TO LEAVE IT THERE.

Q. NOTHING ON THE RESERVATIONS AT THE KING DAVID HOTEL? THERE ARE STORIES THAT THERE HAS BEEN A DELAY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT THE ISRAELIS WANT FURTHER CLARIFICATION. HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT THAT?

A. NO. THE TALKS ARE CONTINUING.

Q. ANY COMMENT ON THE RABIN AND SADAT STATEMENTS?

A. SPECIFICALLY WHAT STATEMENTS?

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Q. WELL, RABIN IS TALKING ABOUT A PULLBACK OF TWENTY-FIVE MILES OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT STATEMENT, NO.

Q. AMBASSADOR DINITZ INDICATED THAT HE EXPECTED THE DIPLOMATIC TALKS, OR THE POLITICAL TALKS, RATHER, TO LAST TO THE END OF THIS WEEK. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY MORE FIRMER HANDLE ON THAT?

A. NO. WE WILL JUST HAVE TO SEE WHAT COMES OUT OF THEIR MEETING THIS MORNING.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US ANYTHING FURTHER SINCE YESTERDAY ABOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS ON THE USE OF AMERICAN TECHNICIANS?

A. AS I INDICATED YESTERDAY, WE ARE CONTINUING TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS ON OUR PRESENT EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AND IN DOING SO, WE ARE SEEKING THE OPINION OF THE CONGRESS ON THE PRESENT

STATE OF THE TALKS. I BELIEVE THE WHITE HOUSE HAS ALREADY CONFIRMED THAT IT HAS BEGUN TAKING SOUNDINGS OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, --- TO OBTAIN THEIR ATTITUDE ON VARIOUS PROPOSALS OF A POSSIBLE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

Q. YESTERDAY YOU SAID THAT THE CONCENTRATION ON THE STATIONING OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THE SINAI, OR TO MONITOR THE EARLY WARNING EQUIPMENT, WOULD BE CIVILIAN ONLY.

A. THAT IS CORRECT.

Q. AND YET THE SECRETARY, I BELIEVE, IN MILWAUKEE SPOKE OF CIVILIAN OR MILITARY. THE QUESTION IS WHY IS THERE A CHANGE LIKE THIS?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO GIVE YOU AN EXPLANATION. BUT I STAND ON WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY.

Q. IS THERE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON WHAT WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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THE SIZE OF THIS TECHNICAL FORCE?

A. NO.

Q. OR WHERE IT WOULD BE LOCATED?

A. I AM JUST NOT ABLE TO GO INTO ANY OF THE DETAILS ON

VARIOUS PROPOSALS THAT ARE CONTAINED OR BEING CONSIDERED IN A POSSIBLE INTERIM AGREEMENT.

Q. WOULD YOU STILL EXPECT CONGRESS TO TAKE SOME KIND OF A VOTE, A DECISION, A JUDGMENT COLLECTIVELY ON THIS KIND OF PROPOSAL?

A. FIRST, WE HAVE TO SAY THAT THERE IS NOT YET AN AGREEMENT. WE ARE STILL WORKING TO TRY TO GET AN AGREEMENT. BUT THE PURPOSE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS THAT WE ARE HAVING WITH THE CONGRESS IS TO OBTAIN THEIR VIEWS BEFORE WE MAKE ANY DECISIONS. AND IF AND WHEN THERE IS AN AGREEMENT, WE WILL SEEK THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS.

Q. THE APPROVAL OF THE CONGRESS WOULD BE AS FAR AS AMERICANS ARE INVOLVED.

A. ON THE AGREEMENT ITSELF.

Q. HOW COULD IT DISAPPROVE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT?

A. TO THE EXTENT THERE IS AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN THAT AGREEMENT.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THE SECRETARY OR SOME OTHER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS TO HOLD FORMAL MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES BEFORE THE AGREEMENT IS COMPLETED?

A. I DON'T THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO SPECULATE AS TO HOW THIS WILL UNFOLD. WE HAVE BEEN AFTER ALL IN VERY CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE CONGRESS ALL THROUGH THIS NEGOTIATION. WE ARE REMAINING IN CONTACT WITH THEM, AND WE WILL BE.  
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IT JUST DEPENDS ON HOW IT UNFOLDS. WE WILL DO WHATEVER IS REQUIRED. BUT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TODAY TO PROVIDE YOU A SCENARIO AS TO HOW IT IS LIKELY TO HAPPEN.

Q. BOB, YOU SPEAK OF CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. NOW, WHAT DOES THAT ENTAIL? THAT WOULD MEAN A VOTE, WOULDN'T IT, BOB?

A. I WOULD ASSUME. THAT IS THE WAY THE CONGRESS USUALLY REGISTERS ITS APPROVAL.

Q. IT WOULD APPEAR, THEN, AMERICAN PARTICIPATION WAS NOT REALLY LIMITED TO ONLY WHETHER CIVILIAN OR MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE IN THE SINAI. WOULD THIS ALSO APPLY TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL, TO THIS MINE-

SWEEPING THING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN?

A. ON BACKGROUND -- IN ANY EVENT, ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WOULD REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. IT HAS TO BE APPROPRIATED BY THE HOUSE, SEPARATE FROM ANY APPROVAL FOR AN OVERALL INTERIM SETTLEMENT.

Q. WELL, THAT WOULD BE THROUGH THE AID PROGRAM. THAT IS UNDERSTOOD. BUT IN DIRECT CONNECTION WITH THE INTERIM AGREEMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE COMPONENTS OF IT WILL BE. I AM NOT ABLE TO DESCRIBE TO YOU WHAT THE COMPONENTS OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT ITSELF ARE GOING TO BE. WHAT I AM SAYING IS THAT WHEN WE HAVE AN AGREEMENT, WE WILL SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THIS REPORT BY THE NAVY OF MINE-SWEEPING OFF THE NORTH END OF THE SUEZ CANAL? IT WILL COST DOLS 2 MILLION OR DOLS 3 MILLION. IS THIS ALL ACCURATE? IS AID FOOTING THE BILL?

A. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS DOING IT. WE ARE USING FISCAL '76 SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FUNDS FROM AID TO REIMBURSE THE U.S. NAVY FOR ITS COSTS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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Q. THIS WAS ORIGINALLY APPROPRIATED FOR ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT, WAS IT? IS THIS THE WAY YOU UNDERSTAND IT?

A. I DO NOT HAVE THE DETAILS OF THE SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FUNDS.

Q. WHAT I AM GETTING AT IS WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS PART OF THE REASSESSMENT, OR PRIOR TO THE REASSESSMENT OR POST-REASSESSMENT?

A. LET ME JUST SAY THERE IS NO RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ON-GOING NEGOTIATIONS AND OUR AGREEMENT TO ASSIST THE EGYPTIANS IN SWEEPING THIS MINE FIELD. THEY ASKED US TO DO THIS LAST FALL, YOU MAY RECALL, AND WE NOTIFIED THE CONGRESS AT THAT TIME OF OUR INTENTION TO DO SO.

Q. CAN YOU TELL US WHO IN THE CONGRESS -- WHAT COMMITTEE?

A. NO, I CANNOT. LET ME JUST GIVE YOU A LITTLE MORE DETAIL ON IT. AFTER NOTIFYING THE CONGRESS LAST FALL, I BELIEVE BECAUSE OF BAD WHETHER THERE WAS SOME DELAY IN

BEGINNING THIS OPERATION. THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT RENEWED THEIR REQUEST FOR HELP. WE THEN NOTIFIED THE CONGRESS OF OUR INTENTION TO USE FISCAL '76 SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE FUNDS. AND OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THIS OPERATION WILL BEGIN ABOUT AUGUST 21, PROVIDED THE CONGRESS HAS NO OBJECTION. BUT WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE ANY CONGRESSIONAL RELUCTANCE TO HAVE THE U.S. NAVY ASSIST IN SWEEPING THIS MINE FIELD.

Q. I ASKED A QUESTION YESTERDAY ABOUT IRAQ. HAVE WE ANYTHING ON THAT YET?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANY REAL DETAILS ON THAT. YOU WILL HAVE TO REFER QUESTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ON IT. I DID MAKE A PRELIMINARY CHECK, JOE. I UNDERSTAND IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH SEEKING BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF PREFABRICATED HOUSING. YOU WILL HAVE TO GO TO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE FOR DETAILS ON IT. BUT LET ME JUST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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SAY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, I WANT TO REITERATE OUR POSITION ON ANY BOYCOTT HAS BEEN STATED OFTEN: WE DO NOT SUPPORT OR CONDONE ANY SUCH BOYCOTT IN ANY WAY. BUT FOR THE DETAILS ON THIS PARTICULAR PROJECT, I WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU WOULD GO TO THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Q. THE REASON WHY WE CAME HERE IS THAT THE COMMERCE SAID THAT THE TENDER CAME FROM STATE AND THROUGH A FOREIGN SERVICE POST. SO THE STATE DEPARTMENT APPARENTLY CONDONED THIS DISCRIMINATION IN PASSING IT ON TO COMMERCE.

A. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE DETAILS OF THE TENDER ARE, JOE. ALL COMMERCIAL TENDERS OVERSEAS COME FROM U.S. EMBASSIES. ALL COMMERCIAL ATTACHES, WHETHER THEY ARE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OFFICERS OR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS, ALWAYS ARE ASSIGNED TO U.S. EMBASSIES. BUT LET'S SEE WHAT COMMERCE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT.

Q. THERE IS NO SCREENING HERE, IS THERE? IS THAT WHAT YOU ARE SAYING?

A. THERE IS SOME PARTICIPATION. BUT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS. AND I JUST THINK YOU WOULD GET A MORE AUTHORITATIVE RESPONSE FROM COMMERCE. SISCO

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